

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00
ICAE-00 NSCE-00 SAA-01 SES-02 SY-05 ACDA-12 OMB-01
TRSE-00 HA-05 AID-05 /091 W
-----106439 131101Z /23

O P 131023Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9647
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5328

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI ASEC LE
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION: SEPTEMBER 13, 1978, 1200 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 5306 (DTG 121126Z SEP 78)

1. BEIRUT FIGHTING.

AT 0700 HOURS ON SEPTEMBER 13 AN ORGANIZATION, SAYING THAT IT
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WAS FROM EAST BEIRUT AND CALLING ITSELF THE COMMITTEE OF DIS-
PLACED PERSONS, TELEPHONED THE AIRPORT AND WARNED IT TO STOP
OPERATIONS, ACCORDING TO AN RSO SOURCE. AT ABOUT 0700 HOURS
TWO MORTAR SHELLS HIT IN OUZAI OUTSIDE THE AIRPORT. AT 1030
HOURS TWO MORE MORTAR ROUNDS HIT AT THE AIRPORT CIRCLE ABOUT ONE
KILOMETER FROM THE AIRPORT. THERE WERE NO RECORDED CASUALTIES,
AND THE AIRPORT IS OPEN. THERE WAS ALSO BRIEF SHELLING THE

MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 13 IN THE AYN AR-RUMMANEH AND AL-HADATH AREAS.

2. GENERAL STRIKE.

A GENERAL STRIKE ORGANIZED BY THE CHRISTIAN PARTIES IS IN EFFECT IN EAST BEIRUT, THE KISRWAN AND THE METN TO PROTEST THE ACTIONS OF THE SYRIAN FORCES HERE. SHOPS AND BUSINESSES ARE CLOSED AND THERE IS LITTLE TRAFFIC ON THE STREETS.

3. SOUTH LEBANON.

CHRISTIAN MILITIA IN QULAYAH SHELLLED PALESTINIANS IN NABITAYAH ON SEPTEMBER 12, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. IKE CITED LOCAL RESIDENTS AS SAYING THREE PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND EIGHT WOUNDED.

4. SEARCH FOR IMAM MUSA SADR.

PRIME MINISTER SALIM AL-HOSS TOLD REPORTERS ON SEPTEMBER 12 THAT AN OFFICIAL LEBANESE DELEGATION WOULD BE SENT TO LIBYA AND OTHER COUNTRIES TO SEARCH FOR THE MISSING IMAM MUSA SADR (SEE SEPTEMBER 12 SITREP). IKE QUOTED INFORMED SOURCES AS SAYING THE DELEGATION WOULD INCLUDE OMAR MUSAYKI, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, AS WELL AS ARMY AND POLICE OFFICERS.

5. DECENTRALIZATION.

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ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE DECENTRALIZATION PLAN SUBMITTED BY MINISTER OF INDUSTRY DOUMIT AT THE SEPTEMBER 11 CABINET MEETING CALLED FOR DIVIDING LEBANON INTO A NUMBER OF GOVERNORATES HAVING MAXIMUM AUTONOMY IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE, SECURITY, AND JUDICIAL FIELDS. PRIME MINISTER AL-HOSS ON SEPTEMBER 12 EXPRESSED "SURPRISE" AT THE PRESS REPORTS, "ESPECIALLY AT THOSE WHICH CLAIMED THE CABINET DISCUSSED PROPOSALS LEANING TOWARD POLITICAL DECENTRALIZATION . . . WE ARE DETERMINED NOT TO ALLOW ANY DISCUSSIONS OF DECENTRALIZATION TO GO BEYOND THE PURELY ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL TO THE POLITICAL LEVEL."
PARKER

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